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# NOTES AND QUERIES:

A MEDIUM OF INTERCOMMUNICATION

FOR

LITERARY MEN, GENERAL READERS, ANTIQUARIES, ETC.

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## GENERAL INDEX

TO

### SERIES THE SIXTH.

(1880—1885.)

Vols. I. to XII.

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"And in such Indexes, although small pricks  
To their subsequent volumes, there is seen  
The baby figure of the giant mass  
Of things to come at large."

*Troilus and Cressida*, Act I. Sc. 3.

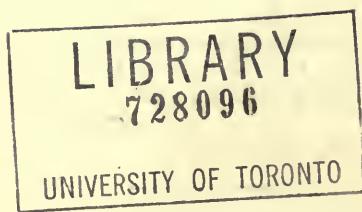
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# P R E F A C E.

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A GENERATION has passed since NOTES AND QUERIES first saw the light. During that period it has maintained its place, not only in the interest of all literary workers, but in the affections of those by whom and for whom it exists. In the case of one whose direct connexion with NOTES AND QUERIES is recent, and who finds himself called upon to write the first preface that has issued from any hand except that of the founder, it is permissible to recall how, long before he dreamed of the possibility of its fortunes being entrusted to his care, the small 4to. was always reserved as the last to be read of the Saturday periodicals, the final delicacy that enabled him to leave off, as the Italian says, "con la bocca dolce." Sitting now where he can see "the very pulse of the machine," he finds a cheering and gratifying task in recognizing the sympathy and attachment which the early writers in NOTES AND QUERIES have transmitted as a species of heirloom to their successors.

It is pleasant to find that names which appeared in the earliest volume are to be found in the latest, and pleasanter to know that the cases are few wherein any cause except such as none can control is responsible for the absence of a name for which readers are accustomed to look.

Nothing would be more agreeable than to express gratitude to those whose contributions have made NOTES AND QUERIES what it is, and to mention with thanks a few at least of those who have enriched its pages with accumulated stores of erudition. Apart, however, from the fact that such a proceeding would occupy far more space than can be assigned to a preface, it would savour of an egotism which the present editor would be sorry to exhibit. While thoroughly sensible of the extraordinary services that are rendered, he feels that it is the world of letters that is the debtor and not himself. Content with his function of selecting from the rich supplies that are sent him what seems of most varied and representative interest, he allows his contributors to thank each other in the same manner in which they assist each other.

One intimation which he has once conveyed in this Series he ventures to repeat where it may obtain added publicity. Those who from modesty or some similar cause append initials to their inquiries, instead of a full name and address, reap a portion only of the harvest to be hoped. Where information is easily obtainable contributors hesitate to burden with it pages which they know to have no superfluous space. In innumerable cases, however, where an address is given such information is sent direct. Very many readers would be glad to recognize the obligation that they are under to contributors such as the late Edward Solly, to mention one only who has passed away, for answers which are judged too long, or otherwise unsuited, for the columns of NOTES AND QUERIES.

This latest Index, which will, it is hoped, be found equal in utility to any of its predecessors, is, like the indexes to the separate volumes of the Series, the compilation of Mr. R. Atkinson, whose earnestness, care, and intelligence are gratefully acknowledged.

There is no pause for delay in a world of action, and while these few words are being written for the twelve volumes of the Sixth Series, the first volume of the Seventh Series is rapidly approaching completion. No very long interval has to be passed before a hundred volumes of NOTES AND QUERIES may stretch out on the well-filled shelves. That interest in the publication increases rather than diminishes is established by the fact that the appearance in an auction catalogue of an index to some of the early series inspires a competition not less eager than attends an early "Shelley" or a first "Tennyson."

JOSEPH KNIGHT.

22, Took's Court, Chancery Lane, E.C., June 1, 1886.



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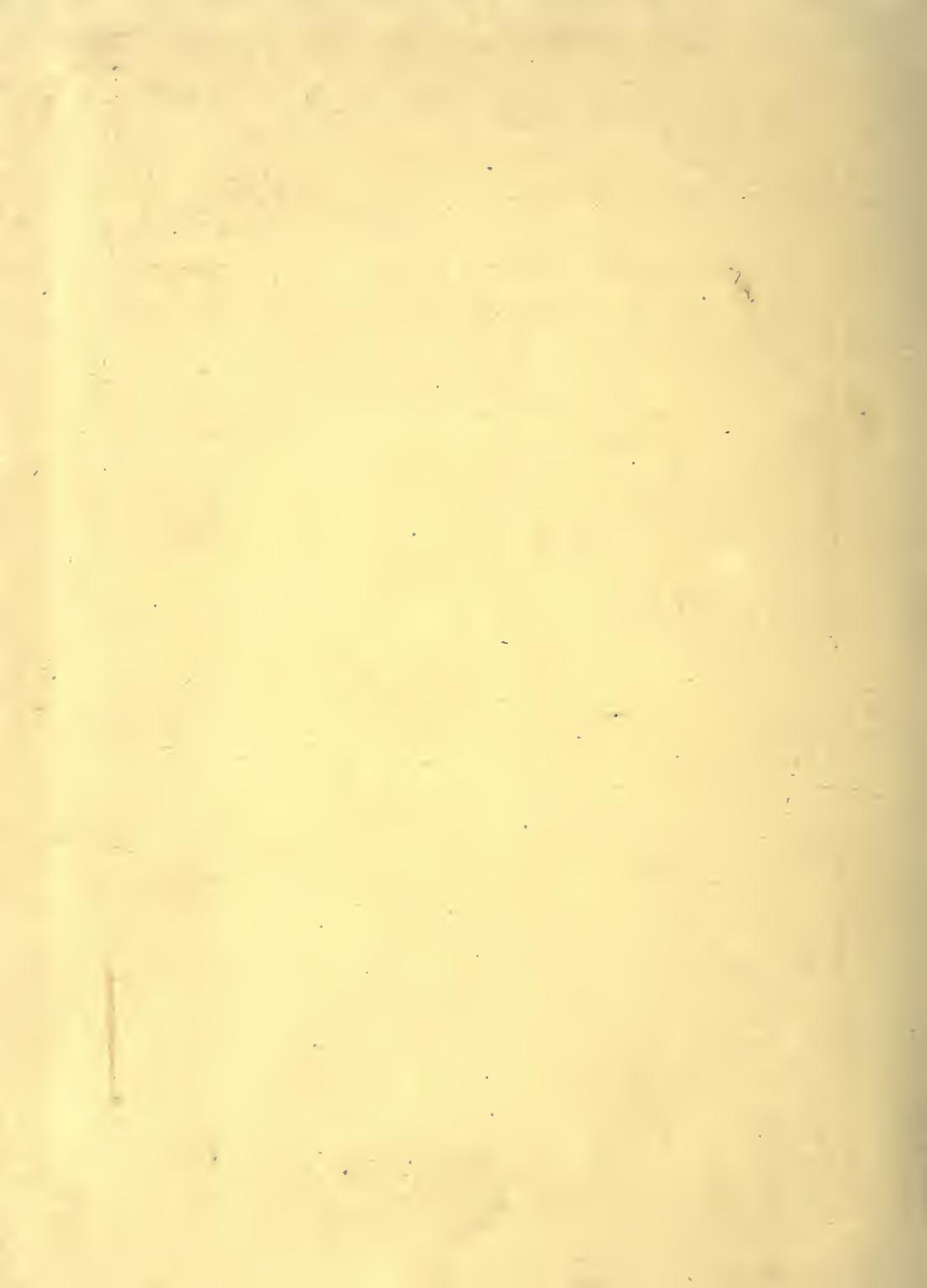
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